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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 10, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JESSE L. JACKSON, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: God Almighty, send forth Your spirit to guide the Members of the House of Representatives today and every day of this 111th Congress. By Your power, manifest the strength of this democracy.

So direct the course of this body that policies and decisions made here may proclaim Your goodness to all the people. Not in words only but with every action freely accepted, may this Nation show the world that it is an agent of reconciliation and peace for all and give You glory, both now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHN-

SON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### BRINGING AN END TO THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction, had no intention or capability of attacking the United States, and had nothing to do with al Qaeda's role in 9/11. Each and every statement made by the previous administration in support of going to war turned out to be false. Yet here we are, a new administration and the same old war and expansion of the war in Afghanistan. We cannot afford these wars spiritually. They are wars of aggression, and they're based on lies. We cannot afford these wars financially. They add trillions to our national debt and destroy our domestic agenda. We cannot afford the human cost of these wars, the loss of lives of our beloved troops and the deaths of innocent civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

So why do we do this? Why do we keep funding wars when they're so obviously against truth and justice and when they undermine our military? These are matters of heart and conscience which must be explored. Our ability to bring an end to these wars will be the real test of our power.

### THE INEFFECTIVE BIG GOVERNMENT STIMULUS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics has admitted there is no way to actually substantiate the number of jobs saved in this economy. Yet the White House continues to rely on this talking point to divert attention away from job losses. They should put this political rhetoric to bed and work with Republicans on proven bipartisan solutions to encourage job creation and economic growth.

House Republicans have long advocated that we keep more money in the economy by not taking it out in the first place. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan understood this. They supported relief for American families and small businesses as the engine of job creation and general prosperity. We should learn a lesson from history.

I am confident our economy will recover, but it will do so because of the hard work and perseverance of Americans. Conversely, filtering billions of borrowed dollars through a bureaucratic maze will be, as we have seen, slow and inefficient.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

### THE NEW WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, following September 11, our Armed Forces made tremendous strides in Afghanistan, but our resources were diverted to fight the war in Iraq. The circumstances now present in Afghanistan and the region are markedly different than those that characterized

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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our original entry in 2001. As a result, the President's request for supplemental funding is not a reallocation of resources. It is support for a new and different war and must be assessed as such.

I have repeatedly asked in various venues how the President's new strategy would bring regional stability, the length of time, and troop levels that such a commitment requires and what our exit strategy would be. The best answer I have received thus far was from Admiral Mullen. He said, "I think it's going to be a while. At what level of combat, what level of troops, that's difficult to predict right now."

A "yes" vote on the supplemental is fundamentally an acceptance of an open-ended military commitment to Afghanistan. That is not something I can support.

#### WHAT IS THE EXIT STRATEGY FOR GUANTANAMO BAY?

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans want to know and they want to know now—what is the exit strategy for Gitmo? In the dark of the night, the first Gitmo terrorist indicted for killing innocent Americans was moved to New York. The White House approved this despite the fact that 65 percent of Americans do not support closing Guantanamo and sending dangerous and deadly detainees to U.S. prisons.

It's about time this administration started an open and honest dialogue on the future of Gitmo and inform the Congress before ferrying terrorists to America. This sneaky middle-of-the-night move shows that the administration does not want to publicly answer any questions about their exit strategy on Gitmo. Americans want, need and deserve to know exactly where these terrorists will go come next January, and we don't want them here in the United States. We don't need al Qaeda recruiting and training hardened criminals in our prisons.

#### NOTHING ABOUT COAL IS CLEAN

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, nothing about coal is clean. From extraction, to waste slurry, to stream contamination in Appalachia, nothing—I repeat—nothing about this energy source is clean. In order to extract coal from the ground, mountains are literally blasted apart, killing wildlife and destroying forests, contributing to erosion, flooding and pollution that hits local communities and causes severe health problems. Over 1,200 miles of stream in Appalachia alone have been buried or completely contaminated because of mountaintop mining.

In order to prepare the coal for burning, an overwhelming amount of water is needed to clean the coal. For every ton of coal cleaned, 20 to 40 gallons of water are used to wash the coal, creating a sludgy pollutant known as slurry. Over 90 million gallons of slurry are created every year while harvesting and preparing coal for burning. Keep in mind, we haven't even begun to burn the stuff yet.

Green jobs are the key to economic and environmental progress in regions torn by surface and mountaintop mining and struggling economically due to the destruction of the land. These include jobs in wind, hydroelectric and biofuel power. These jobs will give hard-hit communities a long-term future for their families instead of a short-term paycheck in exchange for the quality of life in the region forever.

#### BRITISH HOSPITAL PATIENTS DRINK OUT OF FLOWER VASES

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while our President preaches the virtues of government-run health care, the Prime Minister of Great Britain is apologizing to his country for their socialized system. And no wonder—Bella Bailey went to Staffordshire Hospital for minor surgery. But things were so bad, she got scared because of the poorly trained English staff. Her fears proved correct when a nurse dropped Bailey on the floor. Her daughter said, "Meals were brought to patients who couldn't feed themselves, but the staff wouldn't help. Elderly men wandered the halls in a confused state. Vulnerable patients were left hungry and dirty screaming in pain without help."

"Some patients were so thirsty, they drank from flower vases. It was like a third-world country. Things were so bad, I fed patients and took them to the lavatory. It was like I was watching my mum die and others too."

Well, Mrs. Bailey did die in that government-run hospital from injuries sustained while there. Do we really want the government controlling access to health care? Nationalized health care will have the competence of FEMA, the efficiency of the Post Office, and the compassion of the IRS.

And that's just the way it is.

#### CLEAN ENERGY JOBS EARN ALBUQUERQUE A RANKING IN KEY JOB GROWTH AREAS

(Mr. HEINRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, we are at a tipping point in our country's energy policy debate. Today, Americans are realizing the potential jobs that are at stake in our country's energy policy.

In New Mexico's First Congressional District, Schott Solar is on track to

employ 1,400 people in Albuquerque; Solar Array Ventures, another 1,000 people; hundreds have already helped build the 100-megawatt High Lonesome Mesa wind energy project; and Sandia National Laboratories continues to partner with multiple clean energy startups.

These clean energy jobs earned Albuquerque a second-place ranking in Kiplinger magazine's 2009 listing of cities leading the country in key job growth areas, the kinds of jobs that are leading America toward economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, to realize the promise of a clean energy economy, to leave a healthy environment to our children, and to end our dangerous dependency on foreign oil, I urge Congress to take bold, decisive action on America's energy policy.

#### WORKING ON BEHALF OF ORLEANS AND JEFFERSON PARISHES

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, the issues of crime and hurricane recovery are most important for Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. Yesterday I voted for the Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act, and it passed. Law enforcement officials in my district must have the Federal resources needed to protect our citizens.

On Monday, I requested a government review of unresolved FEMA public assistance projects that will help Louisiana move forward with delayed disaster recovery efforts. Lastly, I was able to acknowledge the diverse culture of New Orleans by cosponsoring a resolution to honor black music.

It has been a productive week.

#### URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO MOVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH CUBA

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for those oppressed in Cuba that cannot speak for themselves. As the administration is moving forward with immigration talks, as the Organization of American States is welcoming Cuba, I rise to remind my colleagues in Washington and my friends abroad that when you deal with Cuba, you are not dealing with a benign regime. You are dealing with a dangerous regime. The regime's most recent crackdown has surfaced in the oppression of religion.

In May 2008, Pastor Omar Gude Perez was arrested and charged with human trafficking. When no evidence was found to support the charges, the Cuban regime simply changed the charges. He is now on trial for "counter-revolutionary conduct." A man who has been dedicated to his religion now faces years in prison.